

## Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1880.

Sir

Permit me to draw your attention to the Black color of most of the Gold bars received from the New York Assay Office. I find by experiment that the black substance is not gold nor does it contain gold, and its average weight on each bar is not less than .01 oz. This apparently trifling amount, when applied to many bars seriously affects our accounts. There were 7427 such black bars received by this Mint during the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 1880; so that we were debited with  $74\frac{27}{1000}$  oz. of standard gold, which were not gold. In like manner we have received during the half of the current fiscal year, 4765 such black bars, and our Gold account for this year will be vitiated to the



amount of  $47\frac{65}{100}$  oz. of standard gold.

It should be borne in mind that this black material is over and above the weight that is always assumed to be on the clean gold surface of gold bars, for which last, by a long standing mutual agreement, the Assay Office makes a moderate allowance in weight in every invoice received from it.

I may here observe that the bars are only black when near the standard fineness, and I am glad to observe that the greater part of the gold recently received from the Assay Office is fine gold, with only the unavoidable impurity on any clean surface.

I do not suppose that there would be any difficulty<sup>in</sup> obtaining compensation for the excess of charges.

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden { very respectfully  
Superintendent { J. H. Booth



1379 1/2

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Dec. 30, 1880.

Jar. C. Booth

Melter and Refiner.

Repts Serious  
loss in Gold Bars  
from the NY Assay  
Office, on account  
of black incrust-  
ations that in-  
crease the weight,

No. of Enclosures,

Rec<sup>d</sup> - Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 1880.

[Abstract:] Reports serious loss on Gold Bars from the N.Y. Assay Office... 1379 ½

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,  
Melting and Refining Department,  
Philadelphia,  
December 30, 1880

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Very respectfully,  
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Hon. A. Loudon Snowden  
Superintendent